

the people of that age said all their children needed was to learn to read right, cypher, read the bible and be taught citizenship, the latter was of great value as these people were settling a new country which had to almost entirely enforce what law they had and keep the peace and dignity of the new settlement that finally became Pocahontas County in the rugged hills of West Augusta and now the West Virginia Hills.

Information Rella F Yeager Hillsboro. W. Va.

C.W Price Marlinton. W. Va. and parts taken from the Pocahontas Times of an old issue on county history.

Nancy A McNeill. Buckeye. W. Va.

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Information very hard to get, requiring lots of time.

Chapter X County Government--

Samuel G Smith Hillsboro.W.Va.Pocahontas County.

According to some of our older folks that remember history the taxes collected from the population that is now Pocahontas did little good anywhere as we were in so many counties at that time that the amount collected by each county was so small that it cost most of it to make the collections, and the Virginia Board of Public Works hardly knew we existed, in those days the only tax collected was on personal property and on real estate, as they had no capitation tax as we do today and the road tax was worked out on the roads around over the territory on the western waters, each man received a notice when and where he was to work and this was the way they kept most of the roads up at that time, and prior to 1821 there was very little if any improvements on the western side of the Alleghenys.

Prior to the formation of Pocahontas County when an election was held ~~XXXX~~ ~~XXXX~~ <sup>only land owners</sup> voted and a majority of the population was Jeffersonian Democrats and the minority party was known as Whigs which in later years came to power. Prior to the formation there was no school tax collected as there were no public schools, only pay private ones and according to Prof. G. D McNeill one of the first of these teachers was Big John McNeill a <sup>great</sup> grandfather of the present John McNeill of Buckeye.

As to roads and taxation we had only a few trails that in later years were improved and made into our better roads shortly after the form-

County Government. S.G.S Pocahontas Co.-----

ation of the county, they were very little needed and they were mere trails save for the main roads leading through what is now Pocahontas County and the side roads were just mere paths or trails so to speak, and these were kept up by the people of each locality by work rather than by taxation, as the law at that time fixed it so that once each year the population of each particular section were called out to work the roads.

The houses at this time were mostly made of logs from the virgin forest and today upon making a visit to consult John McNeill of the Swago section I found a house made entirely of logs built in 1813 by Big John McNeill and occupied at this time by a John C McNeill. This house has a chimney some 15 or 16 feet across at the time this house was built Big John McNeill was not only a teacher but an Indian Herb Doctor traveling about over the entire western waters teaching and giving aid with his herbs.

There were no public schools until after the formation of the county as all schools were built on the eastern side of the mountain, all public buildings erected there and through this practice is what led to the formation of a new county as the people as a whole thought they were not getting a fair deal in the distribution of tax money and what it was spent for, and this along without representation is what led to the formation of Pocahontas County and it becoming a part of West Virginia and known at that time as West Augusta.